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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 17683 010947Z

23 45
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NAS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-07 L-03 NRC-05

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DEPT PASS TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, MR. JABLON

ERDA FOR HELFRICH AND LIVERMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF JAPANESE DOCTORS TO ATOMIC BOMB VICTIMS

REF: (A) TOKYO 13682; (B) STATE 222488; (C) TOKYO 13386
(D) TOKYO 13014

1. LATE LAST WEEK, ARTICLES APPEARED IN FOUR JAPANESE NEWS-
PAPERS WHICH REOPENED FOR PUBLIC EDIFICATION THE PROPOSED
EXAMINATION BY JAPANESE DOCTORS OF HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI A-BOMB
SURVIVORS NOW LIVING IN U.S. ARTICLES WERE CONSISTENT IN
TONE AND CONTENT, INDICATING THAT THEY WERE BASED ON INFO
SUPPLIED BY SINGLE SOURCE. ESSENCE OF STORIES WAS THAT (1) USG
HAD GIVEN OFFICIAL APPROVAL FOR VISIT OF DOCTORS AND THAT
COOPERATION WOULD BE EXTENDED; (2) DOCTORS WILL DEPART FOR
U.S. IN JANUARY; (3) MRS. SUEISHI IS MAKING ARRANGMENTS FOR
HOUSING OF DOCTORS AND IS SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS FOR
EXAMINATIONS; (4) FUNDING FOR PROJECT AND PROVISION OF MEDICAL
EXPERTS IS TO COME FROM RERF.
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 17683 010947Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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2. SINCE STORIES APPEARED TO CONTRADICT EMBASSY'S CURRENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MATTER, SCICOUNS ASKED FOREIGN OFFICE IF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS HAD OCCURRED TO WARRANT SUDDEN SPATE OF ARTICLES. AFTER CHECKING WITH DR. SABURI'S OFFICE IN MHW, FOREIGN OFFICE RESPONDED THAT ARTICLES WERE RESULT OF SPECULATION ON PART OF ENTERPRISING REPORTERS, BUT THAT MEETING AMONG FOREIGN OFFICE, MHW, AND EMBASSY REPS APPEARED TO BE WARRANTED SO THAT THERE WERE NO MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

3. MEETING HELD 11/30/76, ATTENDED BY YAMANAKA AND TANAKA, FIRST NORTH AMERICA DIV., AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, MOFA; KUROKAWA AND SUWAI, PLANNING DIV., MHW; AND EMBOFF. IT QUICKLY BECAME CLEAR THAT DR. SABURI HAD INDEED GIVEN PRESS INTERVIEWS TO INDIVIDUAL NEWSMEN, ALTHOUGH IT WAS STATED HE HAD NOT CONDUCTED PRESS CONFERENCE. TANAKA SPECULATED THAT DRIVING FORCE FOR VISITS BY NEWSMEN MAY HAVE COME FROM KYODO NEWS AGENCY, WHICH IS RUMORED TO HAVE SPONSORED MRS. SUEISHI'S LENGTHY VISIT TO JAPAN. KUROKAWA SAID THAT MHW WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT USG HAD AGREED TO COOPERATE IN PROGRAM AND THAT COOPERATION INCLUDED USE OF RERF FUNDS. EMBOFF RECONSTRUCTED USG POSITION GIVEN TO MHW AT LAST MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT (REFTELS A, B), NAMELY THAT USG WOULD NOT OBJECT TO VISIT, THAT USG DIRECT FUNDING PROBABLY NOT AVAILABLE, AND THAT IF PROJECT BECAME A RERF ACTIVITY, APPROVAL OF RERF BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD BE REQUIRED. EMBOFF ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IF MEDICAL TEAM WAS TO LEAVE FOR U.S. IN JANUARY, THIS WOULD BE BEFORE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING. AT FIRST, KUROKAWA REACTED BY SAYING THAT BOARD MEMBERS COULD BE POLLED BY MAIL, BUT LATER AGREED THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE IF THERE WAS ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WOULD DEVELOP. HE ALSO SAID THAT MHW HAD NO SOURCE OF FUNDS OTHER THAN THROUGH RERF, ALTHOUGH EMBOFF RECALLED TO HIM THAT SABURI HAD MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF USING OTHER MHW FUNDS THAT HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO RERF WHICH WERE NOT PART OF JOINT FUNDING.

4. IT WAS FINALLY AGREED THAT MHW WOULD DRAFT PROPOSAL ON MEDICAL VISITATION AND WOULD SUBMIT IT TO MOFA FOR REVIEW AND TRANSMITTAL TO USG. SINCE THIS WAS PROCEDURE AGREED TO SOME TIME AGO--WHEN MOFA FIRST LEARNED FROM PREVIOUS NEWS STORIES
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ABOUT MHW'S ACTIONS--MATTER SEEMS TO BE BACK ON TRACK.

5. ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT FEDERAL GOVT. PRIMARY PROBLEM, ONE RELATED ISSUE WHOSE RESOLUTION REMAINS UNCLEAR IS WHAT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE PLACED ON JAPANESE DOCTORS PERFORMING EXAMINATIONS IN U.S. JAPANESE PAPERS AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE REFERRED REPEATEDLY TO PROVISIONS OF U.S. "MEDICAL ACT" WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT DOCTORS FROM TREATING PATIENTS. WE ARE UNDER

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IMPRESSION THAT NO FEDERAL LAW OBTAINS, AND THAT LICENSING OF
DOCTORS BY THE INDIVIDUAL STATES CONTROLS MEDICAL PRACTICE
IN U.S. ASSUMING THAT CALIFORNIA AND PERHAPS HAWAII ARE ONLY
TWO STATES IN WHICH JAPANESE DOCTORS WILL CONDUCT EXAMINATIONS,
CAN ADDRESSEES PROVIDE REASONABLY EXPLICIT DETAILS ON WHAT
CAN OR CANNOT BE DONE BY DOCTORS? SUCH INFO WILL ALSO BE
USEFUL IN DETERMINING APPROPRIATE VISA TO BE GRANTED IF TRIP
MATERIALIZES.
HODGSON

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